

Rescue of a Neonate from a Cesspit: Peculiar Attempt of Infanticide

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Abstract: Infanticide, the killing of a neonate is perceived differently throughout the world. If some find it legal, no one should tolerate the use of cruel methods to terminate a human being's life. Killing a neonate by throwing him in a cesspit is one of the worst forms of crime and the authors of such crimes have to face the enforcement of the law.

Keywords: Rescue, cesspit, attempt, infanticide.

INTRODUCTION

Infanticide is child murder in the first year of life [1]. The term neonaticide was coined by Resnick to describe murder of an infant within the first 24 hours of life [2].

The rates of child murder are probably underestimated, due to inaccurate coroner rulings and some bodies never being discovered [3].

Several methods are used by mothers to kill their babies. Some babies are drown in the toilet, in some cases, the women suffocate or strangle the baby to prevent it from crying [4].

CASE REPORT

A male baby rescued from a cesspit where he was thrown by his mother (a single house maid). The lady of 18 years old was impregnated by an unknown man. The pregnancy evolved normally and she gave birth to a well developed baby. Five months later, the baby was found in the cesspit of her employer. He was removed and sent to an intensive care unit for resuscitation. One week later the baby was admitted into the pediatric ward of the Institute of African Tropical Ophthalmology. The clinical findings were: bilateral corneal ulcer and conjunctivitis. After four weeks of treatment, some sequelae occurred, namely a

bilateral corneal opacification which means a bilateral blindness.

The lady was arrested and prosecuted. She was convicted and jailed for 5 years.



Fig. 1: Photograph of the baby rescued from a cesspit

DISCUSSION

Infanticide is a general term for child murder. Filicide refers to cases in which the murderer is a parent of the child. Neonaticide is the term used for children who are slain within the first 24 hours of life [5].

Infanticide has been practiced throughout human history for various reasons and continues to be

practiced today throughout the world. It is even legal in some countries [6].

The criminal code of Mali considers infanticide as a felony, and sentences to life prison who so either is found guilty of such crime even in case of an attempt [7].

Women who commit neonaticide generally have made no plans for the birth or care of their child. Some scholars believe that the increased accessibility of abortion is a viable alternative to neonaticide [8]. Poverty or economic stress may increase infanticide [9]. In some instances, the motive of infanticide may be altruistic, acutely psychotic, or due to fatal maltreatment, unwanted child, or spouse revenge [2]. In the current case, the young woman was healthy. The fact that the father of the child is unknown was one of the main reasons of the crime.

CONCLUSION

The opinion of people about infanticide is not the same around the World. In the provision of Malian criminal Law it remains a crime. Any attempt to perpetrate such crime is to be punished by the judiciary.

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